

Application No.: 10/736,981

Docket No.: 713-981

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An expansible ~~Striking~~ plug, comprising a tubular hollow body comprising ~~surmounted by a bearing collar with~~

a bearing collar;

a crural expansion part ~~[[with]]~~ having two slots lying in an axial plane; and ~~[[,]]~~

an intermediate expansion part ~~with a cut away wall~~ between the crural expansion part and the bearing collar; ~~[[,]]~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein, for each of the slots of the crural expansion part, the wall of the intermediate expansion part is pierced ~~—, substantially in the extension of each slot of the crural part,~~ with a non-straight continuous expansion aperture lying on either side of ~~[[the]]~~ said axial plane and axially spaced from ~~[[the]]~~ said slot by a section of said wall in order to provide double axial expansion of the plug.

2. (currently amended) The plug ~~[[Plug]]~~ according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein ~~an in which the~~ axial length of the expansion apertures of the intermediate part is shorter than that of the slots of the crural part.

3. (currently amended) The plug ~~[[Plug]]~~ according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the expansion apertures of the intermediate part lie in a zigzag.

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4. (currently amended) A striking plug, comprising a tubular hollow body surmounted by a bearing collar with
a crural expansion part with two slots lying in an axial plane, and
an intermediate expansion part with a cut-away wall between the crural expansion part and the bearing collar;
wherein
the wall of the intermediate expansion part is pierced, substantially in the extension of each slot of the crural part, with a non-straight continuous expansion aperture lying on either side of the said axial plane and axially spaced from the said slot in order to provide double axial expansion of the plug;
the expansion apertures of the intermediate part lie in a zigzag; and
Plug according to Claim 3, in which the branches forming the zigzag of the expansion aperture form acute angles between them.

5. (currently amended) The plug [[Plug]] according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein
in which each expansion aperture of the intermediate part is continuously extended in [[its]] a
portion thereof adjacent [[close]] to the bearing collar, by a side branch arranged intended to
reduce the risk of tearing at the start of expansion.

6. (currently amended) The plug [[Plug]] according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein
in which each expansion aperture of the intermediate part forms at least one retaining lug
projecting out of the wall of the plug.

7. (currently amended) The plug [[Plug]] according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein
in which the surface of the inner bore of the plug, close to the bearing collar, is shaped in order to
present at least one bead for retaining an expansion nail to be received in said plug.

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8. (currently amended) The plug [[Plug]] according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ two axially offset lugs are provided projecting out of the outer surface of the plug.

9. (new) The plug according to claim 1, wherein said expansion apertures are not continuous to the respective slots each of which have an Y shape.

10. (new) An expansible hollow plug, comprising:
a tubular body having axially opposite first and second ends and an intermediate portion between said first and second ends;
at least one slot being formed in a wall of said tubular body and extending axially from the first end toward the second end so as to render said first end expansible; and
at least one elongated, non-linear aperture being formed through the wall of said body in the intermediate portion so as to render said intermediate portion expansible, wherein said aperture is located between said slot and the second end and is non-continuous to said slot.

11. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein
said at least one slot comprises two slots being formed in the wall of said tubular body and extending axially from the first end toward the second end so as to render said first end expansible;
and
said at least one aperture comprises two elongated, non-linear apertures being formed through the wall of said body in the intermediate portion so as to render said intermediate portion expansible, wherein each of said apertures is located between one of said slots and the second end and is non-continuous to said slot.

12. (new) The plug of claim 11, wherein each of said apertures extends on both sides

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of a plane containing said slots.

13. (new) The plug of claim 11, wherein each of said apertures has opposite closed ends spaced from each other in an axial direction of said tubular body.

14. (new) The plug of claim 13, wherein one of said closed ends is located adjacent the second end whereas another one of said closed ends is located adjacent a closed end of the respective slot.

15. (new) The plug of claim 11, wherein said wall of said tubular body includes a section extending continuously for full 360 degrees in a circumferential direction of said tubular body between each of said apertures and the respective slot to separate said apertures and said slots from each other.

16. (new) The plug of claim 11, having an axial plane dividing said plug into two parts, each of said parts including entireties of one of said slots and the respective aperture.

17. (new) The plug of claim 11, wherein
each of said apertures has a zigzag shape including a plurality of sections continuous to each other to define said zigzag shape; and
adjacent ones of said sections of said zigzag shape form with each other an acute angle.

18. (new) The plug of claim 11, wherein
each of said apertures has a zigzag shape including a plurality of sections continuous to each other to define said zigzag shape; and
portions of the wall that are located between adjacent ones of said sections of said zigzag shape protrude radially inwardly towards an axis of said tubular body so as to prevent a fastening

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element to be inserted in the plug from engaging said aperture.

19. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein said slot has an Y shape including a main section extending axially from the first end towards the second end of said body, and two branches extending from the main section further towards the second end of said body and terminating at two closed ends.

20. (new) The plug of claim 19, wherein said aperture has axially opposite closed ends one of which is located between and spaced from said two closed ends of said slot.